



**USDA, APHIS, PPQ
Pest Detection and Management Programs
4700 River Road, Unit 137
Riverdale, MD 20737**

February 3, 2004 PROGRAM UPDATE:

***Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2: New Detection**

PPQ and State regulatory officials are continuing to hold, destroy and dispose of the three geranium varieties produced at a Guatemalan production facility that are potentially infected with *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2.

Goldsmith believes they can establish that some callused cuttings were not produced in the suspect Guatemalan greenhouses, and sent data they believed demonstrated this to us on January 27. APHIS has reviewed the data, and determined plants of the three varieties slated for destruction that meet the following criteria can be released, as of January 28: (1) shipping week can be readily identified in the plants in the greenhouse, (2) plant variety can easily be associated with the shipping week to be released, and (3) the combination of #1 and #2 are on the list of plants that potentially can be released. APHIS sent an urgent email to our regions on January 28 to release subject plants, providing they meet these criteria. APHIS has asked Goldsmith to not contact their customers about this but to allow APHIS and the States visit these facilities, find these plants, and see if this is possible to reduce the number of plants slated for destruction.

Nationally, 41 states have a total of 448 suspect facilities, 223 facilities are currently being held, 223 control actions (destruction, disposal and disinfection) are complete, 212 facilities have been released, and more than 1.3 million cuttings or plants have been destroyed as of February 2.

The 2004 *Ralstonia* action plan is available at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/ralstonia/rasltoniaactionplanv4web.pdf>

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